

The Dispatch

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TERMS OF THE DISPATCH.

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THE CRITICAL POINT.

The report current in petroleum circles yesterday that a consultation had taken place in New York between the leaders of the producers' organization and the Standard, with regard to the disposition of the oil on the market, and the results may place before the producers the pertinent question whether they have done as well for themselves by playing the Standard's game as they would have by giving the same energy and strength to building up independent buyers of oil.

PARADOXICAL DIPLOMACY.

Mr. Phelps is announced to leave England this week, and it is stated that the course is taken in order to limit on the British mind the fact that the Salisbury administration is rebuked because it does not send a Minister to Washington. There may seem to be a certain paradox in the attitude which first asserted the dignity of the United States by vacating the British Minister here, and then because that post continues vacant revenges the wrong on the English Cabinet by leaving them without an American Minister; but such paradoxes make up the movements of diplomacy. There is a dangerous tendency in these vacant diplomatic posts which the dignified statesmen do not seem to appreciate. After the ministries at both capitals have been left vacant for a time, and both countries continue to run along as usual, the people may conclude that these positions can be permanently vacated, and the gentlemen who are ambitious to fill these easy and high-priced situations may lose their chance of the jobs.

ALASKA'S HAPPY ESCUSSION.

At last a really solid inducement has been held out to the Americans to emigrate to arctic Alaska. The Alaska paper states that the result of the last Presidential election will not be known to settlers at St. Michaels, the Sea Islands and along the banks of the lower Yukon, until the midnight sun has come and gone next July. This beats the best record for returns from West Virginia. The American citizen who is enjoying the companionship of polar bears and other arctic animals on the far Northwestern coast of Alaska has probably just heard of the nomination of Messrs. Cleveland and Harrison. He has before him the prospect of watching the campaign of education and lofty ideas from the safe distance of eight months in the rear of events.

PROTECTION FOR POETS.

Poets are constantly in need of protection. Some of them are in need of protection, and in this case the public usually demands protection from them likewise. The poet is a tender thing, to be guarded, conserved and gently encouraged. We refer to the genuine article, of course. The poetaster is very tough. It is painful to hear the wail of a poet in the prosaic form of a petition for relief from the hands of the censor. The poet is a tender thing, to be guarded, conserved and gently encouraged. We refer to the genuine article, of course. The poetaster is very tough. It is painful to hear the wail of a poet in the prosaic form of a petition for relief from the hands of the censor.

PERSONAL FACTS AND FANCIES.

MAX O'REILLY thinks diamonds, not hearts, are trumps in this country. He doesn't understand the game. THREE colored men are members of the Philadelphia Fair—Theophilus J. Milton, John D. Lewis and Jeremiah A. Scott. They are all in possession of profitable business. MARSHAL BAZAINE was reduced to such an extent that he would gladly have accepted a pension from the government. He has recently sold his very young in his sore need and poverty.

THE MINERS' DILEMMA.

The river miners do not take very kindly to the proposition of the reduction in their wages by about 8 per cent; and considering that they have been subjected to idleness for several weeks, it is not altogether strange that they should indulge in some recalcitration. Possibly some of the labor leaders who have expressed themselves favorably to the policy of sustaining prices by an arbitrary reduction of production may perceive in this proposition the real purpose of the agreement to stop mining, which went into effect some time ago. If it had been announced at first that the closing of the mines was because the markets would not pay at the regular rate of wages, the question could have been discussed on its merits, and possibly an agreement as to wages between the Monongahela and Kanawha miners might have solved the difficulty. As it is, the miners are offered the dilemma between commencing a strike after several weeks of enforced idleness, or acquiescing to the prospect of reduced wages and uncertain work.

EDUCATIONAL REFORM.

It is rather interesting, and at the same time surprising, to find a New York contemporary jubilantly indorsing the action of the Board of Education in decreeing that "the marking system must go out of New York's public schools," and supporting the reform with the following arguments: "The practice of overtaxing the memory and neglecting to develop other faculties is an infamously old, particularly as applied to the young, and the only wonder is that its effects are not worse than they are. Competition for 'marks' aggravates it."

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Small Lots of Gossip for Home Consumption at Xmas. THERE is a young Alleghenian who will not be 21 for 15 years yet—he is wont to set up before the hour for bathing arrives. Next door the house is full of children, and he says that he will be prevailed upon to give a \$12,000 position, but he will undergo that loss if he is called upon to do it. This indicates Mr. Thurston's conviction that in the Cabinet he would be worth so much more than \$12,000 a year to his employers, the Pacific railroads, as will insure him of getting it back after many days.

QUEEN VICTORIA has permitted a modification of the rules relating to the low cut dresses of ladies attending the spring Drawing Rooms at Buckingham palace.

THE MONROE DOCTRINE is getting a great boom on this continent just now; but it may be worth while to remember that the doctrine which proves the most weighty in international questions, is the one that carries the heaviest guns.

THE ILLNESS of Miss Fanny Davenport is not extraordinary, in view of the very hard work which she has to do.

THE theory that immoral and revolting plays have got to be represented because the author wrote them, so argues an ignorance on the part of the person who advances this idea that there are plays of healthy and attractive nature.

IT is now heard from the other side in the Whistler-Stott encounter that it was Stott who punched Whistler, not vice versa as Whistler had reported.

THE difference between the fare which the Whistlingman of Pittsburgh must pay and that which the Whistlingman of Glasgow must pay is 3 cents, and in a year, it would be a conservative estimate to say that the extra charge for himself and family would reach \$10.

IF Mr. Phelps' dignified conduct were to prove infectious in the State Department it would be advantageous to the nation.

THE string which THE DISPATCH stated some time ago was attached to John Wastmaker's European trip, has felt a jerk.

THE Congressional resolution prohibiting the sale of liquor at the inauguration ball is a more decided threat against the festivities of the occasion than all the animadversions of the clergy.

THE decision of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court that the question whether either contains alcohol or not must be decided by a jury, will nerve the average Pennsylvania jurymen with determination to make a thorough test of it.

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WASHBURN WINS THE FIGHT.

ST. PAUL, January 23.—The Committee on Investigation came in promptly on time and presented their report. It states that several of the candidates for the office of Governor, by overzealous friends of the several candidates, but that there is no evidence in any way whatever implicating either General Washburn or Senator Cabin. Mr. Lane called for the reading of the testimony to the effect that the committee had judicial powers and their report should be accepted as final. The motion to hear the testimony was lost.

A NICE SUPPER AND DANCE.

THEIR SECOND RECEPTION.

IN HONOR OF MISS MARY GREGG.

A PLEASANT BIRTHDAY PARTY.

HELD BY MISS HEYL.

A TEN PARTY FOR THE CHURCH.

THE ARCH UNDER WHICH GENERAL WASHINGTON PASSED WILL BE EXHIBITED.

RELIQS FOR THE CENTENNIAL.

THE COUNTY ATTORNEY SAYS THE CHICAGO COURT WOULD GRANT AN INJUNCTION.

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REIMBURSE HIS HEIRS.

WASHINGTON, January 23.—The Appropriation Committee of the House has decided to offer amendments to the sundry civil appropriation bill, now under consideration by the House, appropriating \$500,000 to reimburse the heirs of Captain Edwin S. Spenser, who died in the channel of the Mississippi river at South Pass, and allowing \$100,000 for the continuance of the work of surveying and locating lines for irrigating the arid lands of the West.

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